



# News Release

## **Sarah Sizzles in Sweden: 6<sup>TH</sup> in Vattenfall Cup, Second in Tech Cominco Series**

Orsa, Sweden (March 30, 2008)—Sarah Daitch knew she had her work cut out for her in the classic sprint race at the Vattenfall Cup. She felt good and was eager, but the day looked as if it might be a disaster, when she qualified 16<sup>th</sup> on slushy snow.

"The problem was my wax was ineffective, and all of my major competitors used a different tactic and doubled-polled for the whole race, rather than trying to get the waxing right in these difficult conditions. After the qualifier, I thought, 'It's my last race of the season and, even though I've never attempted to double-poll for an entire race, what do I have to lose?' I wasn't sure if I could actually do it, but it was worth a try."

In the next round, Daitch found that her change of strategy worked and she easily qualified for the semi-finals. She continued to ski well and made it all the way to the B-final, where she finished second by 20 centimetres behind Susanne Nystroem. Nystroem is a splendid sprinter who has finished first or second in major races this year. Sarah was well ahead of World Under-23 silver medalist, Ida Ingemarsdotter.

"I have been fortunate to be supported by one of Sweden's best clubs," Daitch reflected. "The members of the Mora Club have been very welcoming and encouraging. It's been a wonderful experience and I am learning how to ski in the slush and the rain. I was seeded 11<sup>th</sup> in this race, so a sixth place finish against such a strong field is satisfying."

Shortly before the race, Daitch learned that she had finished second in the season long Tech Cominco Sprint Series behind Perianne Jones of Ontario. "I was pleased and surprised by that as I have been in Europe for two months and missed many of the races in the series."

In Sunday's sprint, Daitch finished ahead of Sweden's superstar racer, Charlotte Kalla, who had won on the previous day and has been the winner of over a million dollars in prize money this year. For her efforts in Orsa, Daitch won a food processor. Unlike Kalla, Sarah's bank account isn't getting any bigger, but with a new food processor at least her cooking should improve.

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